I hereby certify that on the date specified below, this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Posta Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to Box RCE, Commissioner of Patents, Washington, DC 20231 Date IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE Attorney Docket No.: 501082.04 (98-0616.03) Applicant : Vishnu K. Agarwal : 2815 : 09/652,993 Group Art Unit Serial No. : Jose R. Diaz Examiner Filed : August 31, 2000 : DEVICE AND METHOD FOR PROTECTING AGAINST OXIDATION O Title CONDUCTIVE LAYER IN SAID DEVICE REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 Box RCE Commissioner of Patents Washington, D.C. 20231 Sir: Applicant requests continued examination, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114, of the above-identified application. 1. Submission Required Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 a. [X] Submission previously submitted [X] Consider the amendment/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on January 28, 2003. ii. [] Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed iii. [] Consider the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) previously filed on b. ■ Submission enclosed Amendment/Reply ii. | Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s) iii. [] Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)

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- 2. Suspension of Action (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required)
 - Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of ____ months.

3. Accompanying Papers

- [X] Postcard
- [X] Check
- [X] Fee Transmittal Sheet
- Petition

4. Deposit Account

[X] The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees required in the above-identified patent application to Deposit Account No. 50-1266.

Date: Mark 03

Respectfully submitted,

By: Paul F. Rusyn

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